

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 ORM-02
AID-05 MCE-00 MCT-01 NEAE-00 /102 W
-----053752 161542Z /46

P R 161414Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4892
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3997

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, MARR, LE, SY, PLO
SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHTAURA AGREEMENT

REF: BEIRUT 3693

1. SUMMARY: APPLICATION OF TRIPARTITE PALESTINIAN-
LEBANESE-SYRIAN AGREEMENT (REFTEL) HAS SO FAR BEEN
LARGELY SUCCESSFUL, ALTHOUGH CHRISTIAN MILITANTS CON-
TINUE TO PROFESS DISDAIN. THE HARDEST PART IS YET TO
COME. END SUMMARY

2. "PHASE ONE" OF THREE PHASE IMPLEMENTATION OF
SHTAURA AGREEMENT TOOK PLACE OVER WEEKEND OF JULY 30 -
31. IT INVOLVED CLOSING OF PALESTINIAN POLITICAL OFFICES
OUTSIDE OF REFUGEE CAMPS AND WITHDRAWAL OF ARMED
PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS FROM AREAS OUTSIDE THE CAMPS.
THIS WAS A SMALL STEP, AND WAS MET WITH DERISION BY
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CHRISTIANS, WHO CLAIMED THAT IT WAS NO MORE THAN
WHAT PALESTINIANS HAD BEEN FALSELY CLAIMING THEY
HAD ALREADY DONE.

3. "PHASE TWO" WAS COLLECTION OF WEAPONS IN CAMPS.
ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED TO BEGIN WEEKEND OF AUGUST 6 -
7, IT WAS POSTPONED SEVERAL DAYS, PARTLY BECAUSE

ALL SIDES HAD APPARENTLY AGREED OPERATIONS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AT NIGHT. ON AUGUST 10, ASF COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED THAT NO LESS THAN 125 TONS OF ARMS HAD BEEN TURNED OVER BY PALESTINIANS AND DEPOSITED IN "COLLECTION CENTERS." (BEIRUT TV STATIONS GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO PICTURES OF THIS ACTIVITY.)

4. HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMUNIQUE, AS CARRIED BY "IKE:"

A) JOINT COMMITTEES COMPLETED INVENTORY OF ARMS KEPT IN PALESTINIAN CAMPS AUG 6 AND 7, AND "ON THE BASIS OF THAT INVENTORY, DETERMINED THE QUANTITY OF ARMS EXCEEDING THE PROVISIONS OF THE CAIRO AGREEMENT."

B) ON AUG 8, FOLLOWING ARMS WERE REMOVED FROM SPORTS CITY AND EQUESTRIAN CLUB: 12 - 102MM, 75MM AND B-10 RECOILLESS RIFLES; 36 MORTARS OF VARIOUS CALIBERS; 40 ANTI-TANK WEAPONS; 9 ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS; 63 ROCKETS OF VARIOUS CALIBERS; 95 "DUSHKA" 70MM AND 120MM MACHINE GUNS; AND UNSPECIFIED QUANTITY OF LIGHT MACHINE GUNS, RIFLES AND AMMUNITION. MATERIEL FILLED ELEVEN TRUCKS. IN ADDITION, TWO ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (APC) WERE TURNED OVER. (WE HAVE ONE REPORT THAT THE APC'S WERE SYRIAN ARMY VEHICLES THAT WERE GIVEN TO PALESTINIANS EARLIER IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DAY, SO THEY COULD BE GIVEN BACK LATER.)

C) ON AUGUST 10, ABOVE WEAPONS WERE DELIVERED TO ASF "COLLECTION CENTERS."

D) COLLECTION OF WEAPONS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL AUGUST 13.

E) "IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS WERE PREVIOUSLY REMOVED TO SOUTH LEBANON. THESE WILL BE INVENTORIED DURING THE THIRD STAGE . . . WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO START IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

F) ASF WILL BEGIN "PRACTICAL MEASURES TO MAKE SURE THAT THE FIRST TWO STAGES OF THE TIME TABLE HAVE BEEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED, AND WILL RAID ANY CENTER, OFFICE OR ARMS DUMP WHICH IT FINDS MAINTAINED ILLEGALLY INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE CAMPS BEGINNING AUGUST 15.

5. VERACITY OF ASF COMMUNIQUE LIST OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION COLLECTED IS CONFIRMED BY PHOTOGRAPHS AND EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS. THE GREAT UNKNOWN IS WHAT IS LEFT

IN CAMPS. COMMUNIQUE ITSELF AS WELL AS ALL OTHER REPORTS
AVOID COMPLETELY ANY MENTION OF WHAT WAS AGREED AMOUNT
OF WEAPONS TO BE LEFT IN CAMPS.

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE THREE IN SOUTH LEBANON,
ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AUGUST 16, HAS BEEN DEFERRED
UNTIL AUGUST 17 OR 18, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS.
MEANWHILE, TENSION HAS INCREASED IN SOUTH, AS LEVEL OF
SHELLING HAS PICKED UP AND MEDIA HAVE SPECULATED THAT
MAJOR ISRAELI MILITARY INTERVENTION IS IMMINENT. THIS
HEIGHTENED TENSION, PLUS EVIDENT INABILITY OF LEBANESE
ARMY TO FIELD MAJOR FORCE QUICKLY, DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR
MEANINGFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT IN NEAR FUTURE.

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Message Attributes

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